

REMARKS

Claims 25-36 are rejected either under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Long (U.S. Pat. No. 4,805,366) or under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Long in view of Keith (U.S. Pat. No. 5,996,297). These grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed.

In an effort to clarify the positioning of the longitudinally extending portions and the internal web, Applicant has specified that these portions and the web all run between opposite ends of the connector by amending the independent claims. In other words, the longitudinally extending portions extend the entire length of the connector, between the opposite ends that are embedded in concrete. The internal web that separates these longitudinally extending portions also runs from opposite end to opposite end of the connector.

Long clearly does not show every limitation of Applicant's claims. In the drawing attached by the Examiner (and enclosed herewith), the portions that the Examiner indicates are "parallel longitudinally extending portions" from claims 37 & 38 do not run between opposite ends of the connector. Similarly, the internal web identified by the Examiner in Long does not extend between opposite ends of the connector.

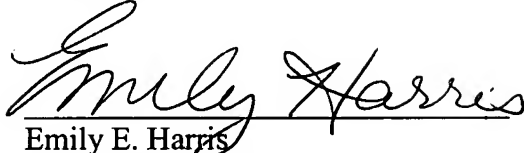
While Applicant has amended the claims to further point out that the longitudinally extending portions and internal web run the length of the connector, from end to end, Applicant believes that the word "longitudinal", as previously presented and as presented in the current claims means that these portions extend from end to end. As defined by Dictionary.com, "longitudinal" means "extending in the direction of the length of a thing; running lengthwise: *a thin, longitudinal stripe.*" The word longitudinal in the claims requires these portions to run the length of the connector. The portions that the Examiner has identified in the drawing do not run the length of the connector; conversely, they extend across the connector. As such, Applicant's claimed invention is distinguishable from the cited art.

The Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned attorney at (515) 288-2500 to discuss the claims in an effort to reach a mutual agreement with respect to claim limitations in the present application which will be effective to define the patentable subject matter if the present claims are not deemed to be adequate for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

9/11/07


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